



News Release

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DOH unveils free teacher resources to bring public health and climate change data into the classroom

Innovative lessons use state data to teach students about issues impacting their communities

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) announces new educational resources created to introduce students and teachers to public health and climate change data.

Free Professional Development Course

In an effort to engage students with local health and climate data, DOH is unveiling a free [professional development course](#) for teachers that uses DOH tools and data to explore the connections between asthma and wildfires, which are one of the most obvious impacts of climate change on Washington state.

Teachers who complete the free on-demand course earn eight (8) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) continuing education hours (clock hours) toward their license renewal.

Classroom Learning Modules

[Washington Tracking Network](#) (WTN) is the nation's first Environmental Public Health Tracking program to create high school level learning materials. DOH, in partnership with the Puget Sound Educational Service District, is offering [free classroom learning materials](#) that lead students through five different lesson plans to give them a unique look at the intersection of climate change and health.

Each module promotes critical thinking by highlighting climate change data, health data, the scientific process, community experience, and insights from epidemiologists. The materials largely pull from WTN's [Information by Location tool](#), and also include other WTN data. The classroom learning materials are available to anyone for free online.

“Students can dig into areas of health, climate, and socioeconomic data that interest them,” said Lauren Jenks, Environmental Public Health Assistant Secretary. “Using WTN tools and real data, they can see what is most impacting their region, differences between communities, and how factors are interconnected.”

Student Contests

DOH’s WTN also offers opportunities for students who want to explore environmental health outside the classroom. The second year of the [WTN Youth Science Contest](#) opens for high school students in March, and the [Radon Poster Contest](#) for students ages 9 through 14 starts in January.

The [DOH website](#) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. [Find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#). Sign up for the DOH blog, [Public Health Connection](#).

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